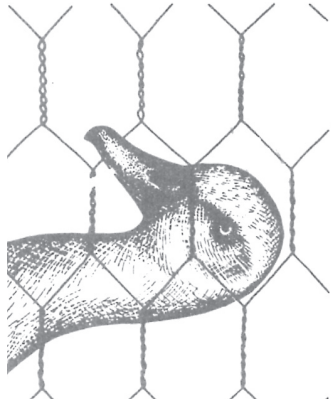


Today, as you enjoy the peaceful view of the bay, consider how you can do your part in helping the Suffolk County Parks Department continue to protect and preserve Indian Island for future generations.

Nowadays, living off the land and water here at Indian Island would be more difficult. Problems such as overdevelopment and pollution are slowly killing the Peconic Bay.



They, too, hunted and fished around this abundant estuary.

By the early 1900's, Hollis Warner had established what became the world's largest duck farm where the golf course now lies. In the 1950's many of the laborers lived right here on Indian Island in small houses, tents and even old cars.

Peconic where it was then tediously transported by oxcart to western Riverhead. Anchors, some weighing over 5,000 lbs., were made there and transported to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Since most local travel and transport was by water until the mid 1800's, a hotel was built on the point for sailors. Traces of the foundation can still be found today.

Facilities

Camping

There are 137 individual campsites. The four group camping areas, four youth group camping sites, and the group picnic areas are available by reservation. The restrooms have hot water and showers. Trailers and recreational vehicles can use the dump station that is available. During the fall/winter schedule all camping must be self-contained.

Picnicking

General picnic areas with tables and grills are available. Group areas available by reservation. Wooded and waterfront sites offer a scenic diversity.

Boating

Though there are no formal docks or landing areas, visitors often launch canoes and small rowboats for a leisurely paddle in the bay and creeks. (Only hand carried craft are permitted but no rubber flotation devices.)

Fishing

Terry and Meetinghouse Creeks and Flanders Bay offer good fishing for flounder, eel, bluefish (snappers), weakfish and crabs.

Hiking and More

Visitors enjoy daily walks through the wooded trails and sun-bathing at the sandy beach (sorry, no swimming). Children can also enjoy the playground. Bird watching and nature photography are popular here with both an upland and wetland ecosystem to explore.

For further information, call 854-4949

In an emergency call 911

Non-emergency call 852-COPS



local timber was used for firewood or to make charcoal for the nearby iron works. Iron ore, nearly non-existent on Long Island, was shipped to the mouth of the

However, much of the

Though relatively small, the Peconic River powered several mills. Trees of the then virgin forest were converted into lumber at New York's first sawmill -- in Riverhead, not far from Indian Island.

local farmers.

The early colonists were also quick to capitalize on the local resources. The abundant seafood of the surrounding waters was trapped in huge draw seine nets designed to catch up to 15,000 fish in one haul. Much of the excess catch was spread in the fields for fertilizer by the

early 1700's.

Thousands of years ago the abundant life around Indian Island attracted prehistoric humans. Fragments of sharp stone tools discovered here are proof that people continued to visit or inhabit the area, reaping the benefits of the earth for centuries to come. A constant supply of fresh water from nearby creeks, a sheltered bay and a bounty of plant and animal life also provided for the local Native Americans, even as recently as the



been a thriving habitat for fish and shellfish.

Directions:

From the West: LI Expressway to end, exit 73. Go east on Route 58 for about 4 1/2 miles. Turn right (south) at County Road 105.

From the East: On North Fork, take Sound Avenue or Main Road (Rt. 25) west. Turn left (south) at County Road 105.



SUFFOLK COUNTY PARKS

Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation



This project was funded by the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program which is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and

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Designed and produced by Starflower Experiences, Inc. Illustrations and map by Robert Villani

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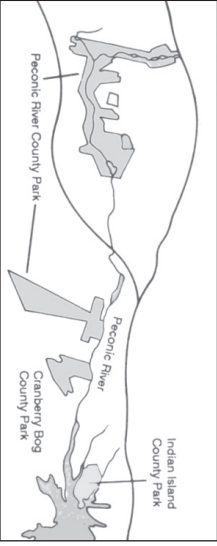


This 274 acre peninsula at the mouth of the Peconic River lies where the north and south forks of Long Island meet and the freshwater of the Peconic River meets the saltwater of Flanders Bay. This kind of natural

Indian Island County Park

"The Mouth of the Peconic"

community, an estuary, where fresh and salt water meet is a place full of life. The upland areas are similar; the mixed oak forest and underbrush provide shelter for many songbirds as well as ground dwelling pheasant and quail. As you stroll through the trails near Creek Road pause to look and listen; perhaps you will encounter the squirrels, opossums, raccoons, rabbits, red fox and occasional deer that make this tranquil woodland their home.



As you approach the water at the park's perimeter, the plant life changes quite dramatically. In the sunny low-growing vegetation of the southern portion of the parks lies one of Suffolk County's largest populations of Prickly Pear Cactus. Two small areas along Fence Line Drive have been preserved to help protect this curious sand-loving native. Along the shoreline in some of the lower lying areas you'll find patches of marsh with its characteristic thick grasses and nutrient rich mud. Like most estuaries, these waters have always

Steven Bellone, County Executive

Greg Dawson, Commissioner

Troubled Waters



In 1985 the bays of eastern Long Island turned a murky brown due to an explosion in the population of an algae known as the "Brown Tide." This micro-scopic plant is so small that its brown color is only visible when there are at least one million cells in each teaspoon of water. In 1986 the population here in Flanders Bay was measured at 100 times that amount, turning the bay a deep coffee brown.

More important than the murky appearance of the water is the fact that the shellfish in the Peconic are threatened by the algae. The cloudy water blocks the sunlight needed by eel grass, the plant which provides much of the oxygen and habitat for the animal life of the bays. In addition, filter feeders such as scallops cannot feed on the brown tide algae and therefore have almost disappeared from the Peconic Bay.

In a recent effort to boost the population, the local fishing industry has teamed up with marine biologists in breeding scallops and clams and "seeding" the bays with them. Despite encouraging results, the brown tide continues to weaken the vitality of the bays.

Unfortunately, the shellfish are not the only living things that are in trouble. The culture and livelihood of families that have lived and worked as baymen for 300 years are threatened. These fishermen are a living legacy to our past. If we lose the shellfish we also lose the baymen -- another piece of Long Island's colorful history.



Guidelines for parks visitors

- Suffolk County parks are for the use of residents of Suffolk County and their guests.
- Please do not disturb the plants and animals.
- Please keep your dogs on a leash at all times.
- You may not bring in alcoholic beverages except with a permit.
- Please carry your waste out with you or use the trash receptacles provided.
- Please obey all traffic signs.

For further information, request a brochure on park rules and regulations.

Pollution Solution



What causes the brown tide? No one is completely sure. But scientists have found a link to the mineral selenium, nitrogen from sewage and fertilizers, and citric acid -- an ingredient in many detergents. Shoreline and near-shore development appears to be a major cause of water quality degradation due to increased storm water runoff and seepage from septic systems. Pesticides, herbicides and other toxins may also enter the bay and upset its fragile ecological balance. Scientists suggest that these poisons may even kill the organisms that eat and therefore control the population of the brown tide algae.

The richness of the bay has attracted many homes and businesses to nearby communities. Ironically, the daily activities of people in these communities are actually endangering the very beauty that brought them here in the first place. If the bay is to survive as a healthy ecosystem, each of us must consider the results of our actions. Just as we need the bay for its beauty and resources, the bay needs us too. What will you do to help?

*I've got bills to pay and children who need clothes
I know there's fish out there but where God only
knows*

*They say these waters aren't what they used to be
But I've got people back on land who count on me...*

*I was a boyman like my father was before
Can't make a living as a boyman anymore*

There ain't much future for a man who works the sea.

*"THE DOWNEASTER 'ALEXA'" by Billy Joel
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